

Message Text

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FOR CU-ARTS: PASS WILDER GREEN, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS

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SUBJECT: VENICE BIENNALE

1. AT MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS OF FOREIGN PAVILIONS FOR THE 1978 VENICE BIENNALE ON MARCH 7 NEW DATES WERE NEGOTATED FOR THE VERSISSAGE AND OPENING OF THE BIENNALE.

2. NEW HEADS OF THE ITAIAN COMMITTEE (LUIGI CARLUCCIO, ENRICO CRISPOLTI, LARA VINCA) AND THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CENTRAL PAVILLION (FILIBERTO MENNA, ACHILLE BONITO OLIVA, ANTONIO DEL GUERCIO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE USEUM OF MODERN ART OF LODZ, THE POLISH STANILANSKI AND THE DIRCTOR OF THE MODERN ART GALLERY OF BASEL, SWITZERLAND, AMAN) ASKED FOR A ONE MONTH POSTPONMENT IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH PREPARATIONOF THE HISTORICAL-CRITICAL EXHIBIT, WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME WILL BE CURATED BY ITALANS AND FOREIGNERS, ENOUGH TIME TO ORGANIZE THEIR EXHIBIT. SEVEAL COMMISSIONERS, MOST PARTICULARLY THE SCANDI-NAVIANS, OBJECTED STRENOOUSLY TO A POSTPONEMENT IN VIEW OF THEIR ALREADY FIRM SCHEDULES IN VENICE.

3. A TWO-WEEK POSTPONEMENT, WHICH WE SUSPECT WAS EXACTLY WHAT THE BIENNALE AND THE CENTRAL PAVILION ORGANIZERS WANTED ALL ALONG, WAS AGREED UPON. THUS TTHE DATES FOR THE VERNISSAGE ARE NOW FIXED AT JUNE 28, 19 AND 30 AND THE OPENING FOR THE PUBLIC

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SET AT JULY 2.

4. THE DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR THE GENEAL CATALOGUE IS STILL APRIL 10 AND THE DEADLINE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF WORKS IN VENICE IS TILL MAY 15, BUT WE SUSPECT THERE MAY BE SOME SLIPPAGE HERE.

5. AS USUAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GENERAL CATALOGUE AND THE NATIONAL CATALOGUES CONSUMED A GREAT DEAL OF TIME, ENERGY, AND ANGER, ALTHOUGH THE SPIRIT OF PEACE AND COOPERATION WHICH HAS PERVADED ALL MEETINGS FOR THE 1978 BIENNALE PREVAILED. THE SIZE AND FORMAT OF THE GENERAL CATALOGUE WILL REMAIN AS BEFORE: 22 BY 24 CENTIMETERS.

6. EACH NATIONAL CONTRIBUTOR WILL BE ALLOWED EITHER SIX OR EIGHT PAGES, THIS DECISION TO BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS. ONE DETERMINANT WILL BE THE PRICE SINCE ALL PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS APPROVED BIENNALE'S DESIRES TO LOWER PRICE OF GENERAL CATALOGUE FROM LIRE 8,000 TO LIRE 6,000 THIS YEAR. WITHIN TEN DAYS LAYOUT SHEETS WILL BE SENT TO THE EMBASSY AND FORWARDED DIRECTLY TO GREENE AT AFA.

7. POST NOTES MARKED LACK OF ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF YUGOSLAVIA. THE BIENNALE HAS ASKED ITS VICE-PRESIDENT, THE MAYOR OF VENICE, RIGO (PSI), TO GO TO ROME SPECIFICALLY TO CALL ON THE EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES TO SOLICIT THEIR PARTICIPATION. THE BIENNALE, PERHAPS RIGHTLY SO, ATTRIBUTES THE EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS NON-PARTICIPATION TO THE 1977 BIENNALE'S THEME ON DISSENT.

8. THE INFORMATION IN THIS CABLE HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE AFA BY PHONE SINCE IT HAD BEEN REQUESTED AT THE EARLIEST UNCLASSIFIED

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